

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of death, injury, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The toll on families and individuals can be immense and damaged businesses cannot contribute to the economy. The time, money and effort to respond to and recover from these disasters divert public resources and attention from other important programs and problems. Arizona has had over 170 federal or state declarations and many more significant but undeclared disaster events. Arizona recognizes the consequences of disasters and the need to reduce the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards.

The elected and appointed officials of the State of Arizona also know that with careful selection, mitigation actions in the form of projects and programs can become long-term, cost effective means for reducing the impact of natural and human-caused hazards. Applying this knowledge, the State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (the Planning Team) has collaborated to prepare this *State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan* (the Plan). With the support of various officials, the State of Arizona, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this Plan has resulted in a resource to guide the State toward greater disaster resistance in full harmony with the character and needs of the region.

People and property in Arizona are at risk from a variety of hazards that have the potential for causing widespread loss of life and damage to property, infrastructure, and the environment. The purpose of hazard mitigation is to implement actions that eliminate the risk from hazards, or reduce the severity of the effects of hazards on people and property. Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability. The goal of mitigation is to save lives and reduce property damage. Mitigation can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. In addition, mitigation can protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability and minimize community disruption. Preparedness, response, and recovery measures support the concept of mitigation and may directly support identified mitigation actions.

This Plan has been prepared in compliance with Section 322 of the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (*Stafford Act* or the *Act*), 42 U.S. C. 5165, enacted under Sec. 104 the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, (*DMA 2000*) Public Law 106-390 of October 30, 2000. This Plan identifies hazard mitigation measures intended to eliminate or reduce the effects of future disasters throughout the State.

The State shall comply with all applicable federal statutes and regulations during the periods for which it receives grant funding, in compliance with 44 CFR 13.11(c), and will amend its Plan whenever necessary to reflect changes in State or Federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11(d).